**Supplemental Digital Content 2.** Late postoperative complications

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| **Late postoperative**  **complication** | **Eyes, n** | **%** | **Management** | **Follow-up result** |
| Infectious ( primary herpes simplex) keratitis | 1 | 1.3 | Stop steroid eye drops  Aciclovir 3% ointment 5 times daily | Complete healing without sequelae within postoperative month 1 |
| Persistent epithelial defect | 1 | 1.3 | Stop steroid eye drops  Stop topical NSAIDS  Supportive treatment  Sodium hyaluronate 0.15% eye drops  Carboxymethylcellulose sodium solution 0.5% lubricant eye drops  Sterile eye gel (hypromellose 0.3%, carbomer 980 0.22%) | Complete epithelial healing achieved by 6 weeks postoperatively, leaving a hazy cornea with central corneal opacity that affected the postoperative visual outcome |
| Central corneal stromal opacities | 2 | 2.5 | Frequent steroid eye drops  Sodium chloride 5% three times daily  Carboxymethylcellulose sodium solution 0.5% lubricant eye drops | Central corneal stromal scarring leading to opacities with marked reduction in postoperative visual acuity |
| Progression of keratoconus | 5 | 6.3 | Retreatment with conventional 30 minutes epithelium-off CXL | Stability and improvement after 18 months of follow-up |

CXL, corneal collagen cross-linking; NSAID, nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drug